Debt Under Collections

1020. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Banks follow a practice of technically wirtting off a bad debt but keeping it in the form of debt under collection to pursue recovery; and

(b) if so, what is the amount of bad debts finally written off and of technically written off by each of the Public Sector Banks including State Bank of India and Associate Banks at the end of each of the financial year 1969 to 1993/94?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that some of the public sector banks follow the practice of technically writting off bad debts.

(b) RBI has reported that the information regarding the amounts of bad debts actually written off and technically written off by public sector banks since 1969 is not available. However information for the years 1984 to 1994 is given at Annexures. [*See* Appendix 174, Annexure No. 30]

Construction of Airport at Bombay in collaboration with Hindujas

1021. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government is considering the construction of one more Airport at Bombay in collaboration with Hindujas;

(b) whether the Maharashtra Government has sought the permission from the Central Government for such a project;

(c) if so, whether the Central Government has given its consent; and

(d) if not, what is the stand of the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) There was a news item that Memorandum of Understanding between State Industrial Corporation of Maharashtra and Airport Alliance, an international consortium was signed in London for a pre-feasibility study on second international airport for Bombay. The State Government have been asked to furnish details relating to the news item.

Share Certificates to the Investors

1022. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many firms are not issuing share certificates to the investors even after the due dates are over;

(b) if so, how many firms have completed the obligation of issuing share certificates; and

(c) what steps are taken to ensure the timely issuance of share certificates to the investors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Section 113 of the Companies Act, 1956, provides for prosecution of the company and every officer of the company who is in default in complying with the time-limit for allotment of securities.

Reduction of Import Duty on Base Metals

1023. SHRI YERRA NAYARANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SCOPE has represented to the Finance Ministry against reduction of import duty on base metals;

(b) if so, the details of this representation by SCOPE: and

(c) reaction of Government to the representation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, a representation was received from the SCOPE which referred to the possible adverse effect of lowering of Customs Duties on ferrous and non-ferrous metals, on public sector enterprises and suggested a review of the extent of duty reduction. The Customs Duties on metals have been lowered taking into account the interests of both the manufacturers as well as the end-users. The present level of import duties is considered reasonable and there is no proposal to change them for the present.

प्रकल्पित कर योजना

1024. **श्री सतीश प्रधान:** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में 1994-95 के वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान प्रकल्पित कर योजना के अंतर्गत 1400 रुपये की राशि कर के रूप में भुगतान करने वाले कर-दाताओं की संख्या क्या है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार के उदार रवैये के कारण अन्य लोग भी इस योजना का लाभ उठा सकते हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस योजना के अधीन अधिकाधिक लोगों को शामिल करने के लिए सरकार क्या-क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री मनमोहन सिंह): (क) वित्त वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान पूर्वानुमानित कर स्कीम के अन्तर्गत ऐसे 356322 मामले थे।

(ख) आयकर अधिनियम, 1961 की धारा 115-ट के अनुसार किसी सामान या अन्य वस्तु के खुदरा व्यापार का कारोबार या भोजनालय चलाने के कारोबार या मोटर गाड़ी या मैक्सी-कैब या तिपहिया मोटरगाड़ी को चलाने या किराये पर देने या पट्टे पर देने के कारोबार में लगा व्यक्ति ही पूर्वानुमानित कर स्कीम का लाभ प्राप्त कर सकता है बशर्ते उक्त धारा में विनिर्दिष्ट दूसरी शर्तों को पूरा करता हो। धारा 115-ट में इस प्रकार विनिर्दिष्ट न किया गया कोई भी दूसरा व्यक्ति इस स्कीम का लाभ प्राप्त नहीं कर सकता।

(ग) पूर्वानुमानित कराधान की विद्यमान स्कीम के अधीन आने वाले व्यापारों की विभिन्न श्रेणियों के अधीन अधिक से अधिक व्यक्तियों को लाने के लिए व्यापक प्रचार अभियान चलाया जा रहा है। परन्तु इस स्कीम के अंतर्गत व्यापारियों की और अधिक श्रेणियों को शामिल करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

World Bank Study on Environmental Issues in Power Sector

1025. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has been permitted to launch a study of environmental issues in power sector in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of States and the objectives of such a study;

(c) whether the effects of expansion of power generation through coal on air, water and land have been identified during such study; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Government have approved a study of environment issues in power sector to be carried out by the Wolrd Bank with Indian officials and experts playing an integral part in the work. The study is to be conducted in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar. The objectives of the study are to identify the main environmental effects related to the expansion of electricity generation. In particular the study will examine the impact of power sector expansion on air, land and water. On the basis of enviromental effects identified the study will suggest various options to mitigate these effects.